



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application Of:

Mark J. COOPER *et al.*

Serial No.: 09/867,693

Filed: May 31, 2001

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Group Art Unit: 1632

Examiner: D. Nguyen

Docket No. 003659.00009

#15/B

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5-27-03

For: **LYOPHILIZABLE AND ENHANCED COMPACTED NUCLEIC ACIDS**

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Assistant Director for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

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In response to the Office Action mailed January 15, 2003, applicants request entry of the following amendments and reconsideration of the patentability of the rejected claims. Claims 1-181 are pending in the application. Claims 2-7, 9, 20-27, 29-37, 47, 49, 51, 52, 55, 56, 69-73, 75-78, 80-83, 85, 103-110, 112-126, 128-159, 164, and 177-186 have been examined and stand rejected. Claims 48, 50, 53, 54, 57, and 58 were withdrawn as not reading on an elected species (acetate as a counterion) in the Office Action. However, the Office Action indicates that claims reading on chloride as a counterion have also been searched because doing so does not present an undue burden. Claims 48, 50, 53, 54, 57, and 58 read on chloride as a counterion and accordingly should be included as examined (not withdrawn) with the above-identified claims.

A petition for a one-month extension of time accompanies this response. No other fee is believed due to make this response timely filed. If any other fee is due please charge our Deposit Account No. 19-0733.